WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Increasing fellowship to scholars under ICAR

1779. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:*Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scholars undertaking research work under ICAR;

(b) how many of these scholars are ladies;

(c) whether any fellowship is being paid to the researchers;

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) whether there is any proposal to enhance the fellowship amount to lady research scholars in order to motivate and empower them further; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There are a total number of 1353 scholars undertaking research leading to their M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees under ICAR, Deemed Universities.

(b) Out of these 233 are lady scholars.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The rates of the fellowships paid to different scholars are as under:—

1. Junior Research Fellowship (For Agriculture Science)-Rs. 3600 per month (fixed)

   Junior Research Fellowship (For Veterinary Science)-Rs. 5000 per month (fixed)

2. Senior Research Fellowship (For Agriculture Science)-Rs. 8000 per month (fixed) for 1st & IInd year & Rs. 9000 per month (fixed) for III year

   Senior Research Fellowship (For Veterinary Science)-Rs. 9500 per month (fixed) for 1st & IInd year & Rs. 10000 per month (fixed) for III year.

3. Institute Fellowship for M Sc student-Rs. 3200/-per month (fixed)

4. Institute Fellowship for Ph.D. student-Rs 4400/- per month (fixed)

Some of the scholars get fellowship of varied amount from organizations other than ICAR.

(e) There is no proposal to introduce differential rates for ladies and men in research scholarships.

(f) Question does not arise, Sir.

Central assistance for debt relief to farmers

1780. SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the number of peasants who caught in debt trap have committed suicide in Kerala;

(b) whether Kerala Government has sought any Central assistance for providing relief to such farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government would consider to waive agricultural loan upto the tune of 50,000 and interest of loan, extend moratorium for recovery of loan announced by RBI upto three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The State Government of Kerala in its memorandum submitted to Government of India on 26th July, 2004 have stated that 48 cases of farmers's suicide due to crop failures and indebtedness were reported from Wayanad district.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Kerala in its memorandum of July, 2004 have sought central assistance of Rs. 3847 crores for rehabilitation of farmers and revival of agriculture sector which includes Rs. 10 crore for providing relief to the families of the farmers who committed suicide. Government of India has decided to depute a Central team for on the spot assessment of the prevailing situation in the State.

(d) Based on the announcement made by the Government of India on 18th June, 2004, the banks have already been advised by RBI/ NABARD to extend following debt relief measures to the farmers.—